

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring system connected with a plurality of devices via a network, wherein:

at least some of the plurality of devices ~~is~~ are provided with a device monitoring function for:

monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device each other for changes in state; and

notifying each other of the changes in state; and

sharing with each other information about the a third device distinct from said another device of changes in the state of said another device.

2. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring system connected with a plurality of devices via a network, wherein:

each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring function for:

monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device each other for an abnormality; and

notifying each other of the abnormality; and

sharing with each other information about the a third device distinct from said another device of any abnormality of said another device.

3. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring system comprising a plurality of devices connected to a network and a device management server which manages the plurality of devices, wherein:

each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring function for:  
                  monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device each other  
for changes in state; and  
                  notifying at least one of the device management server and other devices  
among the plurality of devices a third device distinct from said another device of the  
changes in the state; and of said another device  
sharing with each other information about the changes in state.

4. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring system comprising a plurality of devices connected to a network and a device management server which manages the plurality of devices, wherein:

each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring function for:  
                  monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device each other  
for an abnormality; and  
                  notifying at least one of the device management server and other devices  
among the plurality of devices of the a third device distinct from said another device of  
any abnormality; and of said another device  
sharing with each other information about the abnormality.

5. (Original) The device monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein all of the plurality of devices are provided with the device monitoring function.

6. (Currently Amended) The device monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein the device monitoring function comprises:

a device detecting section for recognizing an existence of other devices connected to the network;

a device management table creation section for creating a device management table for use in identifying a device to be monitored out of the recognized other devices;

a device management table storage section for storing the created device management table;

a status information detecting section for detecting status information about the monitoring device;

a status information transmission section for transmitting status information about the monitoring device and the another device to at least one of a third device of the plurality of devices and the device management server; and

a status information receiving section for receiving status information at least from any other device of the plurality of devices.

7. (Original) The device monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein the devices further comprise printers.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring method for a plurality of devices in a network comprising;

causing~~wherein~~ the plurality of devices to periodically monitor a state of each other; and

causing any of the plurality of devices~~device~~ which finds ~~any~~ a change in the state of ~~a monitored device~~ another of the plurality of devices to:

notifi~~notifies~~ at least one of ~~another device~~ another device of the plurality of devices and a device management server about the change; and

share information about the change with the plurality of devices.

12. (Currently Amended) A device monitoring method for a plurality of devices in a network comprising;

causing~~wherein~~ the plurality of devices to periodically monitor each other for abnormalities; and

causing any of the plurality of devices~~device~~ which finds ~~any~~ an abnormality of a ~~monitored device~~ another of the plurality of devices to:

notifi~~notifies~~ at least one of ~~another device~~ another device of the plurality of devices and a device management server about the abnormality; and

share information about the abnormality with the plurality of devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The device monitoring method according to claim 11, wherein:

the ~~notification~~ information includes log information about the monitored device.

14. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 11, wherein:  
each of the devices monitors at least one of a logically close and physically close device.

15. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 11, wherein:  
each of the devices monitors a functionally similar device.

16. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 11, wherein:  
each of the devices monitors devices which differ by at least a certain time period of manufacture.

17. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 11, wherein:  
each of the devices determines a device to be monitored according to a device management table created by a parent device.

18. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein:  
the device management table is created by the parent device according to device management method properties acquired from the device management server.

19. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein:  
the device which starts up first from among the plurality of devices in the network becomes the parent device.

20. (Currently Amended) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein:

~~when~~if the parent device experiences a shut down and stops operating, a device which detects the shut down functions as a new parent device.

21. (Currently Amended) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein:

~~when~~if the parent device shuts down, the first device that receives a shut-down notice from the parent device functions as a new parent device.

22. (Original) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein:  
an XML protocol is used as a data description format for a communications section among the devices and a communications section between the devices and the device management server.

23. (Currently amended) The device monitoring method according to claim 17, wherein ~~printers comprise the devices~~ comprise printers.

24. (Currently Amended) A device comprising a device monitoring function

for:

~~monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device~~ at least one other device among a plurality of devices in a network for changes in state; and

~~notifying another device among the plurality of devices in the network a third device distinct from said another device of the changes in a state of said another device~~ the at least one other device; and

sharing with the another device information about the changes in state.

25. (Currently Amended) A device comprising a device monitoring function

for:

~~monitoring another device distinct from the monitoring device~~ at least one other device among a plurality of devices in a network for an abnormality; and

~~notifying another device among the plurality of devices in the network of the a third device distinct from said another device about any abnormality of said another device~~ the at least one other device; and

sharing with the another device information about the abnormality.

26. (Original) The device according to claim 24, wherein the device further comprises a printer.